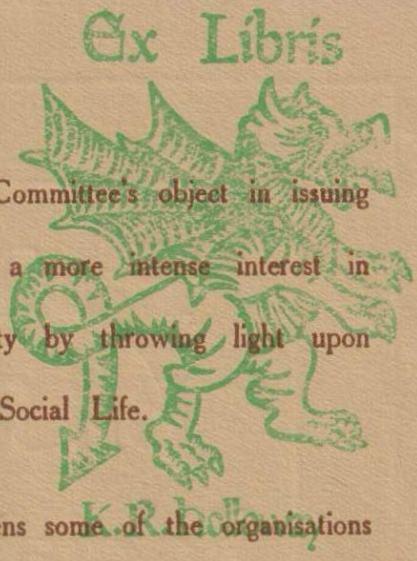
No. 1. KEEP THIS FOR REFERENCE.

Facts of Bristol's Social Life 1914.

Issued by
THE SOCIAL
SERVICE COMMITTEE
OF THE
BRISTOL ADULT
SCHOOL UNION.

PRICE - ONE PENNY.

TERENCE BRYANT
1980
BRISTOL COLLECTION



The Social Service Committee's object in issuing this pamphlet is to create a more intense interest in the social work of the city by throwing light upon various aspects of Bristol's Social Life.

To thousands of citizens some of the organisations are absolutely unknown, and many others have an imperfect knowledge of work being done, but are ignorant of the authorities and organisations effecting it.

The brief reports will, it is hoped, shew where, when, and how, services may be both received and rendered.

On behalf of the Social Service Committee,

WALTER WEST, Chairman.

A. J. FOYLE, Hon. Secretary.

Facts of Bristol's Social Life.

POPULATION AND ACREAGE. "The estimated population of the city at the middle of 1913 was 361,362 persons, upon an area of 17,460 acres."

Distribution	Acreage	Estimated Population, 1913	Density, 1913
Bristol Central	719	36,747	51·1
Bedminster	1,952	62,186	31·8
Knowle	1,108	21,952	19·8
Clifton	1,269	41,503	32·7
Ashley	2,157	48,718	22·5
St. George	1,994	59,640	29·9
St. Philip	604	49,973	82·7
Stapleton	2,573	27,336	10·6
Westbury-on-Trym ...	5,084	13,307	2·6
Bristol City, 1913 ...	17,460	361,362	20·69

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES. "The parks and open spaces available for recreation of the people comprise in all 801 acres, including Clifton and Durdham Downs, which have a combined area of 442 acres."

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING ACT. "The Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, requires further and more regular and complete inspection and control over the housing of the poor, and regulations have already been issued for ensuring the systematic exercise of such control. The following table shows the action taken under this Act up to the end of 1913 :—

Total number of houses inspected, 2,956.

2,956	Found defective	2,276
	No action necessary	680
2,276	Closed under Order	176
	Closed voluntarily	275
	Made habitable	1,783
	In hand	42

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

"The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified in the undermentioned localities during the year ending 3rd January, 1914 :—

Notifiable Diseases	Ashley	Bedminster	Bristol Central	Clifton	Knowle	St. George	St. Philip	Stapleton	Westbury-on-Trym	Public Institutions	Not belonging to Borough
Diphtheria ...	63	157	73	66	57	119	85	70	33	28	11
Erysipelas ...	23	34	24	29	10	34	36	16	7	13	1
Scarlet Fever ...	189	366	125	119	99	365	295	123	27	20	10
Enteric Fever ...	3	4	16	2	3	15	7	3	2	4	5
Continued Fever	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	2	6	1	1	2	5	4	2	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	3	3	1	1	—	4	2	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (Port)...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	286	572	242	220	173	539	431	216	69	65	28

PHTHISIS.

"The Bristol Dispensary for the prevention of consumption was taken over by the Corporation at the end of January, 1914, but, for convenience in preparing statistics, the figures have been taken from December 30th, 1912, to January 3rd, 1914.

The following table shows the proportion of cases of tuberculosis found amongst the 696 new patients who attend the Dispensary from the city and elsewhere :—

	Ashley	Bedminster	Bristol Central	Clifton	Knowle	St. George	St. Philip	Stapleton	Westbury-on-Trym	Outside of City	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	46	89	72	51	26	68	96	17	7	3	475

SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION.

"Badly ventilated, over-crowded bedrooms, full of pre-respired air, and the fact that such rooms, and even frequently the same bed, are shared with a consumptive patient by other members of his family, are probably responsible for more tuberculosis than any other one factor.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.

	*1st April 1904	1st April, 1910	1st April, 1911	1st April, 1912	1st April, 1913	1st April, 1914
In Workhouses & Children's Homes	2,513	2,944	2,874	2,927	2,758	2,566
In Institutions,&c.	149	123	139	131	167	168
In Lunatic Asylums	859	859	883	867	849	881
Out-door Poor ...	6,030	5,764	4,280	4,472	4,037	3,872
	9,551	9,690	8,176	8,397	7,811	7,487
Weekly Cost of out-relief	£ s d 746 4 3½	£ s d 785 6 5	£ s d ‡504 0 10	£ s d 589 9 8	£ s d 509 9 9	£ s d 507 18 8

‡ This reduction is due to the large number of cases transferred to Old Age Pension List.

* 1904 gives the comparison of a 10-year interval with 1914.

MUNICIPAL LODGING HOUSE. "The total number of nightly occupations, from 26th March, 1913, to 25th March, 1914, was 41,416, or on an average of 113 lodgers per night during the year; the total number of beds available being 120.

For the year ended 25th March, 1913, the total number of nightly occupations was 39,873, or an average of 119 lodgers per night during the year. This is an increase of 1,543 nightly occupations, or an increase on the average of four lodgers per night.

The result of the increase in the number of lodgers has been a corresponding increase in the receipts over the previous year of £50 5s. 4d.

The amount payable for interest and sinking fund was £474 12s. 1d., from which is deducted the surplus of £231 9s. 11d. on the maintenance account, leaving a balance of £243 2s. 2d. chargeable on the General District Rates for the year ending March 25th, 1914, as compared with £275 18s. 8d. for the year ended 25th March, 1913."

From the Annual Report (1913) of the Medical Officer of Health.

BRISTOL'S MEDICAL CHARITIES.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL. "This institution exists for the relief of diseases of every description with the exception of certain inadmissible cases specified in Rules 1, 7, and 8, section 21, of the institution. Also for the treatment of casualties of all kinds.

It is mainly supported by annual subscriptions, donations, legacies, collections from workpeople, and at places of worship, and from boxes at places of public resort. Income is also derived from training fees and the nursing institution.

	£	s	d
Total Ordinary income for 1913	12,697	18	6
Total Ordinary expenditure	16,300	9	4
Excess of Ordinary expenditure over Ordinary income	3,602	10	10

Subscriptions are £92 less than the preceding year. Workmen's donations £209 less. Training fees are £60 less. Bank interest £43 less. Expenditure is £336 higher.

Patients admitted in 1913—

In-patients, 3,056; Out-patients, 33,925. Total, 36,981.

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Convalescent Home is connected with the Hospital, and to this 655 patients were sent in 1913."

BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.

"The general scope of this institution is similar to that of the Hospital, and the main sources of its income are the same.

	£	s	d
Total Ordinary income	12,783	0	2
Total Ordinary expenditure	20,228	8	6
Excess of Ordinary expenditure over Ordinary income	7,445	8	4

Subscriptions are £447 higher than the preceding year. Workmen's donations £78 less. Interest on investments £1,340 less.

Patients admitted during 1913—

In-patients, 5,154; Out-patients, 37,429. Total, 42,583.

Average number of in-patients, 270. Average number of days in the house, 18. The cost of each occupied bed was £63 4s. 9d. The cost of each in-patient was £3 3s. 4d.

That the Ordinary expenditure of our two great Medical Charities should exceed their Ordinary income :—

in the case of the General Hospital by	£3,602	10	10
in the case of the Royal Infirmary by	£7,445	8	4
	£11,047	19	2

BRISTOL EYE HOSPITAL.

"The object of the institution is the relief or cure of diseases of the eye among the poor.

Out-patients are treated without any special form of recommendation or letter being required, provided only they come under the usual denomination of poor persons.

In-patients are admitted on the recommendation of benefactors of the Hospital, and in all cases only at the discretion of the Surgeon. No one is admitted who can be equally well treated as an out-patient.

Any poor person not in receipt of parochial pay, who is unable to pay the expense of surgical treatment, and who cannot procure a recommendation from a Governor, is admissible as an in-patient on payment of 10/- per week in advance.

Out-patients in 1913, 17,021. In-patients, 552. Operations, 672.

The necessary expenditure of this Hospital exceeds the income by at least £500 per annum."

BRISTOL ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN AND WOMEN.

Special Features :—

1. *No Note of Recommendation* is required for in or out-patients.
2. Children up to 12 years of age admitted as in-patients, FREE.
3. Women admitted on payment, *according to their means.*
4. Babies of any age admitted.
5. Special block for treatment of diphtheria.

The Out-patient Department is to a large extent self-supporting. Women pay 1/6 on admission and 3d. on each subsequent visit, or 6d. for the week. Girls of 12 and under 15 years pay 1/- on admission and 3d. for each subsequent visit, or 6d. for the week. Children pay 6d. on admission and 1½d. for each subsequent visit, or 3d. for the week.

Out-patients treated in 1913—

Women	1,247
Children	3,626
Total	4,873

In-patients treated in 1913—

Women	76
Children	902
Total	978

268 operations were performed on children and 50 on women.

There is also a Dental Department. The dentist attends at the Out-patient Department every Tuesday, at 11 o'clock."

Number of patients attended—
Women, 574. Children, 626. Total, 1,200.

Total income of Hospital from all sources in 1913 ...	£4,602
Total expenditure	£4,880
Deficit	£278

BRISTOL DISPENSARY. The objects of the institution are :—

First, to provide medical officers to give advice at the Dispensary, or to visit the sick at their own dwellings, and to supply such medicines as may be necessary.

Secondly, to assist poor lying-in married women by providing them with the assistance of trained midwives, and in cases of difficulty with medical assistance.

"During 1913, medical assistance has been given in 23 cases.

No person is admitted as a patient without a printed recommendation signed by a subscriber, on payment of 5/- on presenting it at the Dispensary or any branch thereof.

Every patient, except a midwifery patient, is entitled to attendance for six weeks from admission, unless discharged cured by the medical officer, without a fresh note ; and every midwifery patient for one month from her confinement, if required in consequence thereof.

The visiting area of the institution is divided into 9 districts, to each of which a medical officer is attached."

Sick patients admitted in 1913 ...	10,080
Midwifery patients admitted in 1913 ...	341
Total	10,421

BRISTOL'S BLIND. "The number of known blind persons in Bristol is 400 :—

Men, 160. Women, 145. Boys, 50. Girls, 45. Total, 400.

Of the adults, about half—or 152—are mainly dependent on public or private charity.

In this city there were formerly two organisations—now amalgamated—for assisting the blind :—

The Royal School of Industry for the Blind. Instituted in 1793.

The Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind. Founded in 1857.

The number of blind persons under the care of the institution in one form or another is over 500 :—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Pupils at present resident in the School	59	43	102
	Men	Women	
Blind workers and adult pupils ...	40	50	90
Visited by three home teachers in Bristol and District, about ...			300
Ex-pupils living at greater distances under the care of sponsors, who are answerable for their well-being ..			52
		Total	544

QUALIFIED DENTISTS' SOCIETY.

"The work of this Society should be of especial interest to all persons in Bristol and district—of limited means.

Dental treatment on 'a low scale of fees' will be supplied to any person whose income does not exceed £160 per annum.

An estimate of cost will always be given before the work is done. All fees being paid in advance.

The staff is entirely composed of legally-qualified and registered dentists, and consists of 20 surgeon dentists of Bristol and district.

The formation of this Society will fulfil a want, which it has only been possible to meet by the co-operation of so large a number of local practitioners.

A member of the staff is in attendance daily, at 37, Clarence Road, West Street, from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.

A trained nurse-attendant will always be on the premises."

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Extracts from Report :—

"During the year ended 31st December, 1913, 15,602 children have been medically examined, and notices posted to parents in regard to :—

1,571 children requiring medical attention.
512 children with defective eyes.
1,324 children with defective teeth.

It was discovered, upon enquiry of the head-teachers, that no action had been taken in regard to :—

778 children requiring medical attention.
382 children with defective eyes.
944 children with defective teeth.
182 children were not reported upon (probably to having passed out of the jurisdiction of the Bristol Education Committee).

The scope of the work of the school nurses has extended during the year, and is likely to still further develop in the future.

The Children's Care Committee was established for the purpose of securing, as far as possible, proper treatment for all medically-inspected children who are found to require it. It is composed of ladies (65 at present), who have undertaken to assist the Education Committee as voluntary visitors to the parents of children, for whom the medical treatment recommended by the school medical officers, has not been supplied.

The school medical officer writes : 'This is particularly valuable work, especially in poor districts where the mothers find it difficult to get away from the homes,' and 'entails considerable expenditure of time and labour on the part of the members.'

The Education Committee greatly appreciate the work already done, and they will gladly welcome additional members.

The hygienic conditions of the school buildings has been supervised, and 4 schools were closed in July, 1913, and various structural alterations and improvements made at 27 other schools.

The total number of children inspected during the year was 15,602, and the aggregate time spent on examining the children in schools was 1,538 hours. Of the 15,602 children inspected, 3,240 children were found to be free from defects of any kind, giving a percentage of 29·64. This shows an improvement upon previous years, when the figures were as follows :—

1910	1911	1912	1913
19·87	23·53	27·53	29·64

Of the defects tabulated by the school medical officer, defective teeth is the most prevalent. Out of 10,995 children, only 6,224 were certified as having sound teeth.

2·5% were reported dirty as regards the body, and 7·39% unclean in the head. Girls suffer from nits and pediculi more than boys ; *e.g.* :—

	Entrants		Leavers	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Clean	3,218	2,774	2,095	1,644
Nits (severe) and pediculi	7	101	nil	138

It will be seen from these figures that the liability of girls to develop this unpleasant condition increases during the school life.

NUTRITION.

861, or 7·88% children were found during the year to have nutrition below normal, and in a further 60 cases (·55%) the nutrition was found to be distinctly bad.

It should be noted that malnutrition in many instances was dependent on other defects, and with the removal of the causative defect, the nutrition automatically became better.

There has been a slight improvement this year in the number of normal children as regards their nutrition, as will be seen from these figures :—

1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
88·88%	90·08%	89·75%	89·33%	91·57%

EAR DISEASES.

During the year, 52 swabs were taken of chronic ear discharges, which were found upon examination to contain diphtheria organisms, in greater or smaller quantities, in over 50% of the cases.

The danger of having these cases in school is that, although the organism is innocuous to the 'carrier,' it may become virulent enough in other children, who may become inoculated with it. Yet very few of these children with ear discharges were suffering from acute symptoms of any kind.

EYESIGHT.

The Education Committee have now made arrangements with the Eye Hospital and Eye Dispensary for the examination of 600 cases per annum, for a fixed sum, any cases over this number to be paid for at a fixed sum per head. Since the introduction of medical inspection of school children, the work of the staff at these voluntary institutions has been greatly increased.

FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of dinners supplied to necessitous children during the year ended March 31st, 1914, was 282,152, as compared with 370,627 last year.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

The open-air school at Knowle was opened on October 20th, 1913. It is certified for the accommodation of 65 children, and is at present supported by voluntary contributions, plus grants from the Board of Education.

Redcross Street and Orchard Place schools for mentally-defective children had 242 children on the books at 31st December, 1913.

Redcross Street physically-defective school had 165 on the books at 31st December, 1913.

The children in the Day Industrial schools and the deaf and blind children in special institutions, have also had the supervision and advice of the school medical officer, and other medical gentlemen have voluntarily co-operated in the work of caring for these defective children."

FEEDING OF NECESSITOUS SCHOOL CHILDREN.

"The Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906, which came into operation on 21st December, 1906, is of a permissive nature. It enables the Local Education Authority to take such steps as they may think fit for providing meals for children in attendance at any Public Elementary School in their area.

For the provision of these meals the Local Education Authority, on ascertaining that other funds are not available or insufficient for the purpose, may expend money out of the rates, such expenditure must not exceed one half-penny in the £, and must previously have received the sanction of the Board of Education.

The Bristol Education Authority at once availed itself of these powers and have provided meals for all necessitous children in the city.

The number of meals given to school children in Bristol during the year ended March 31st, 1914, was 282,152, as compared with 370,627 in the previous year. Of this total 174,795 were supplied from the Central Cooking Kitchen, Narrow Weir, and the remainder (107,357) at Restaurants, Domestic Subjects Centres, and the two Special Schools.

Though the number of applications for dinners was fewer last year, the decrease was partly due to the fact that the Feeding Centres closed a fortnight earlier, and re-opened three weeks later than during the previous twelve months, making a difference of five weeks.

During the year £1,531 14s. 6d. was expended upon the food supplied, and the cost of administration amounted to £879 os. 7d. A total of £2,410 15s. 1d.

Parents who wish their children to be supplied with meals make a personal application at convenient centres which are opened for this purpose on two evenings a week. The Attendance Officers, who are present, furnish the Committee with particulars regarding the circumstances of the family, &c. A 'Poverty Scale' has been adopted, and should the net income of the family be above that scale the meals are not granted unless there are exceptional reasons.

When it has been decided to supply the food a book of tickets, covering a period of four weeks for each child, is sent to the Head-teacher of the Day School. Before the end of that time renewed application must be made by the parents for a continuance of the tickets, and if no improved change has taken place further meals are allowed.

Great stress is laid by the Board of Education upon the necessity for a close connection between the working of the Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906, and the School Medical Service. Importance is also attached by the Board to the educational aspect of the work under this Act.

At the Feeding Centres in Bristol the meal is made as attractive as possible, and the presence of a teacher is a factor in insuring that the children observe the social amenities at table. Grace is said, and everything is conducted in an orderly manner.

It must not be imagined, however, from the foregoing remarks that the children are over-disciplined; on the contrary, they are permitted to talk, and everything is done to make mealtime a bright event for them. To insure a sufficiency of food each child is helped according to its age. It can safely be said that the money which is expended out of the rates upon meals for school children proves a good investment. A supply of wholesome food is bound to improve their health, and better health generally means regular attendance at school.

The benefit to the little ones should be judged from the educational as well as from a health standpoint; for it is clear that children who are in need of food cannot be expected to take full advantage of the instruction given to them.

It is satisfactory to record that Regulations have been issued by the Board of Education, under which grants in respect of the provision of meals for elementary school children in England and

Wales, will, it is hoped, be made by the Board during the year ending the 31st March, 1915. The prospect of obtaining these grants will no doubt induce education authorities generally to avail themselves of the powers given them. It is a weakness of the 1906 Act, that meals can only be supplied to those who are actually in attendance at school. In consequence of this, infirm and ailing children for whom good food is essential, cannot, when they are absent from school, obtain it at the expense of the rates. The time should not be far distant when legislation will empower local education authorities to supply food during holidays, and to children excluded from school upon medical grounds."

Councillor E. J. BURT, J.P.

NATIONAL INSURANCE.

"The Offices of the Bristol Committee are at Sun Buildings, Clare Street, and the Monthly Meetings of the full Committee are held at the Council House. The Committee was one of the foremost in the kingdom to administer the National Insurance Act to the full, and very quickly got to work with what perhaps is its most important feature, viz. : Sanatorium and treatment of persons suffering from tuberculosis. An agreement was entered into and approved by the Commissioner, by which the Health Committee of the City and the Insurance Committee combined their work, the result being that this work is now most up-to-date. No less than 765 persons being treated at the different Sanatoriums—Winsley, Ham Green (where large additional accommodation is being provided), and Clift House, and also domestic treatment. The whole of the persons needing treatment being more promptly dealt with. The Committee are now considering the further power conferred on them by the Act such as Health Lectures, Prevention of Disease, Housing, &c. There is also two Dispensaries in operation, one at Redcliffe Parade and one at Portland Square, for treatment of out-patients."

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF MALE WORKERS IN BRISTOL.

"To give just a list of the occupations followed by male workers in Bristol would fill up all the space I am allowed for this article. I can, therefore, only give a few, representative of certain industries. In the metal, machine, and engineering trades there are some 12,000 workers, working for various rates of pay and various numbers of hours. Pattern-makers, the aristocrats of the engineering trade, get 40/3 for week of 53 hours in town and 45/- at Avonmouth. Ironfounders, fitters, turners, and smiths, 38/- in the town shops and 45/- at Avonmouth, the rate, however, is 1/- higher at the Bristol Docks in the shops and 42/- when working on board ship. Brassmoulders and brass-finishers get 36/- for a 54 hours week. Hours at the Docks are, however, shorter in the winter and also when working on board ship. Shipwrights get 39/- and boilermakers 39/- to £2. Ship joiners receive 6/10 per day. Electrical fitters get 8½d. per hour

in town and 9½d. at the Docks. In the building trades we have what appears to be a high hourly rate of wage. It is, however, greatly reduced when we consider the large amount of broken time they have to put up with. Bricklayers get 9½d. per hour. Masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, and plasterers, also get 9½d. per hour. In January, 1915, some of these have been promised another ½d. per hour. Painters receive 9d., bricklayers' labourers 7d. Hours, however, vary. During the summer they work 50 hours. In November and February 47 hours, and December and January 41½. Thus a bricklayers' labourer when working a full week in December would receive 24/2½, but as the weather is generally very bad in that month he would probably, if he had any work at all (and many cannot get any at that time), be in receipt of an average of 15/- per week. In the printing trades, lithographic printers receive 36/- to 38/- for a week of 50 to 51 hours. Jobbing compositors get 35/- for 51 hours. Compositors on the daily papers receive 40/- per week. Bookbinders and machine rulers receive 30/- per week for 51 hours. In the boot trade, clickers receive 30/- for 52½ hours ; pressmen 28/- to 30/- ; lasters on daywork 30/- ; and finishers 30/- Amongst those who make our furniture, the cabinet-makers, receive 8½d. for 54 hours work ; wood-cutting machinists 9½d. per hour for 53 hours ; upholsterers 8½d. and 9d. for 54 hours ; and French polishers 8d. per hour. Railway men receive from 18/- to over 40/- per week ; hundreds receiving no more than 20/- to 22/- per week. That is, they are always living several shillings per week below the poverty line. In the municipal employ the same wages rule as outside in the building and engineering trades. Steamroller men, however, get 7½d. to 8d. per hour, navvies 6½d., sewer-pipe layers 10d. to 1/1, timbermen 7d. to 9d., general labourers 6½d., street sweepers 4/- per day, and refuse collectors from 3/8 to 4/6, per week of 48 hours. The motor cab drivers receive 2/6 per day and commission on their earnings. Gardeners receive 3/- per day and upwards. Milk-sellers get 12/- per week and upwards. In the confectionery, clothing, and box making trades they, of course, receive the Wage Board rate, which I hope will continue to vary until it is a living wage."

Councillor WALTER H. AYLES.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

"The national system of Labour Exchanges, established by the Board of Trade under the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909, was brought into effective operation at the beginning of February, 1910. There are at the present time more than 400 Labour Exchanges open in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. All the Exchanges are connected together in one great national system ; while, in connection with the administration of Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911 (Unemployment Insurance), they have been linked up with over 1000 local agents in different parts of the country. The Exchanges are by this means brought into touch with all unemployed persons in those trades where unemployment insurance is compulsory, viz., building, construction of

works, shipbuilding, mechanical engineering, ironfounding, construction of vehicles, and sawmilling.

Labour Exchanges are not intended to manufacture employment or to minister to the relief of distress. They are designed to provide a ready means of putting employers desiring workpeople and workpeople seeking employment into touch with one another, and to save the delay and waste of labour which has occurred in the past.

The employer retains an entire freedom of selection and is at liberty to engage or reject any applicant submitted to him ; he may further specify to the Exchange any men whom he desires to have submitted to him if they are available. He is only asked to inform the Exchange of any person whom he engages. If there is no suitable applicant on the register of the Exchange to which the employer has notified the vacancy, the vacancy is at once communicated to neighbouring Exchanges, and, if unfilled there, it may be circulated to all the Labour Exchanges in the United Kingdom. The Board of Trade are specially empowered, subject to certain restrictions with regard to rates of wages and trade disputes, to advance the travelling expenses of persons for whom work has been found through a Labour Exchange ; and they are thus enabled to send applicants to employment which has been found for them in distant parts of the country.

Though it is now coming to be generally realised that skilled employees of the best type in every class of industry are at present registered on the books of the Labour Exchanges throughout the country, considerable difficulty was at first experienced in persuading both employers and respectable workpeople that the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges form a national market for labour entirely disconnected from the direct relief of distress.

In spite of these difficulties the work of the Labour Exchanges has shown most satisfactory results. The number of persons who obtained employment through their instrumentality has, apart from temporary and accidental variations, steadily increased. Excluding certain occupations of a peculiarly casual nature, they now fill over 15,000 vacancies each week, for the most part vacancies for skilled labour.

In the Bristol district (excluding Avonmouth), during the twelve months ending 16/1/14, 21,623 persons registered for employment, 12,778 vacancies were notified and 9,548 vacancies were filled, and in addition several hundreds of persons were found employment in other districts where local labour was not available.

All persons seeking employment should register at one of the local offices.

No fees whatever are chargeable to employers or workpeople.

Unemployment Insurance.

The scheme of insurance against unemployment which is contained in Part II. of the National Insurance Act is to be administered

by the Board of Trade, and came into operation on Monday, July 15th, 1912.

All workpeople (whether men or women) over sixteen years of age who are engaged wholly or mainly by way of manual labour in the following trades will be compulsorily insured against unemployment and have contributions towards the Unemployment Fund deducted from their wages :—1.—Building. 2.—Construction of Works. 3.—Shipbuilding. 4.—Mechanical Engineering. 5.—Ironfounding. 6.—Construction of Vehicles. 7.—Sawmilling (including machine woodwork).

Foremen other than manual workmen, clerks, indentured apprentices, and persons under 16 years of age are excluded.

No employer may engage a workman in one of the insured trades unless the latter holds, or at once applied for, an Unemployment Book. An Unemployment Book can be obtained by making application at any Labour Exchange.

No contributions are required whilst the workman is out of work for any cause or is engaged in a trade other than an insured trade.

The employer is entitled to deduct from wages paid to the workman one half of the value of any stamps affixed to his insurance book in accordance with the above table.

The benefits of the Act may be obtained by the workman in one of two ways : (1) direct from the Unemployment Fund through a Labour Exchange or other Local Office of the Fund, or (2) through an Association which pays unemployment benefit and which has made an arrangement with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the Act. In either case the first step is for the workman, on losing employment, to get his unemployment book from the employer and lodge it at a Labour Exchange.

If the workman claims benefit from the Fund direct, he will, on lodging his book, make a claim for benefit, and will thereafter be required to sign a register daily or at other intervals, as directed, as evidence of being unemployed.

The unemployment benefit is 7/- a week. Workmen between 17 and 18 get 3/6 a week. Workmen under 17 cannot claim benefit. No benefit will be paid for the first week of any period of unemployment.

Benefit cannot be obtained for more than 15 weeks in any period of 12 months, or for more than one week for every five full weekly contributions (employer 2½d., workman 2½d. = 5d.)

The hours for signing the unemployment registers and making claims for benefit are 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon only. Benefit is paid on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, 3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m., and to men who have obtained employment since claiming 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m."

LEONARD P. BROAD.

THE BRISTOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

"The above Committee was appointed by the Board of Trade in October, 1910, in connection with the Labour Exchange.

It consists of representatives of the following bodies :—Education Committee, Employers, Workpeople, Teachers, and others interested in the industrial welfare of boys and girls.

The objects of the Committee may be summarised as follows :—

1. To advise the Board of Trade on matters connected with Juvenile Employment.

2. To supervise the Juvenile Department of the Labour Exchange.

3. To collect industrial information for the use of parents and children.

4. To advise parents and children as to choice of employment and matters relating thereto.

5. To place children so far as possible in the employment advised.

6. To organise a scheme of 'After Care' by which the children leaving the elementary schools in the city are looked after during the first three precarious years of their industrial life.

The Advisory Committee works in close co-operation with the local Education Committee, and the name, address, and other particulars of every child leaving school is sent to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee, in most instances before the child actually leaves.

An invitation is sent to the parents of each child inviting them to attend a Rota Committee of the Advisory Committee if they need advice or help in placing the child in employment.

These Rota Committees consist not only of members of the Advisory Committee but also of co-opted employers, workpeople, teachers, and social workers, and they comprise a membership of 50.

Members attend every Monday and Wednesday evening at the Labour Exchange at 7 p.m. During the past year 70 of these meetings have been held at which 725 children have been interviewed and advised.

During 1913, 1,972 boys and 1,294 girls registered at the Labour Exchange for employment. 1,340 boys and 645 girls were placed in work. Employers notified 2,761 vacancies for boys and 1,032 for girls.

The "After Care" work has developed considerably during the past year. Committees are being formed in connection with each school or small group of schools, and 250 voluntary workers have been enrolled as "After Care" visitors.

The recent work of the Advisory Committee has included the following activities :—

1. An enquiry into the "Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship" in Bristol.

2. An enquiry into the employment of golf caddies at the local clubs.

3. The appointment of a special Sub-Committee to advise and deal with the employment of defective children.

4. An enquiry into the shortage of juvenile labour in certain occupations.

5. A scheme of co-operation in After Care work with various organisations already engaged in the welfare of Bristol boys and girls."

Miss Evelyn L. Tivy.

CHILD-LIFE AND THE PRESENT CRISIS.

"At the present moment, when the nation is plunged into deep anxiety, every citizen worth the name desires to find a practical outlet for his patriotism. The foremost thought in all minds is "what can I do to serve my country?" It is not given to all men to fight, nor to all women to nurse the wounded. Supreme though these duties are, some of us must perforce stand aside and look for ways of serving nearer home.

There is one need in our midst, always urgent, just now emphasized by present events which should appeal to every earnest-minded man and woman. I allude to the need of safeguarding the infant and child-life of the nation. Thousands of young men are being cut off in the flower of their youth. The ranks of the working classes especially are being depleted by the terrible death-roll which war brings in its train. We pray God that this awful waste of life may speedily cease. Meanwhile, we must do our utmost to stem the tide of that other waste of life which goes on—often unnoticed—in all large towns, to which Bristol is no exception. We must combat and reduce the high rate of infant mortality. We must see to it that every little child gets a chance of life and health. We must secure to every boy and girl the means of developing a strong body and a vigorous brain. A population of strong, sound, virile citizens, a rising generation neither depleted by early deaths nor weakened by an undue proportion of the physically unfit—this is what England needs to-day and will need increasingly in the years immediately to come. Bristol's patriots will surely be serving their city and their state if they work towards this end.

In Bristol the rate of infant mortality (97·5 in 1913) is happily not so high as in some large towns. Yet it is far too high, especially in poor neighbourhoods. In St. Philip's it was 124·3 last year, in Central Bristol 115·5. Moreover, there are a very large number of children who although they struggle up through the first year of life suffer from physical disabilities which will handicap them throughout their whole career. It is safe to say that, given proper care and treatment during infancy, more than half the deaths could, humanly speaking, have been prevented, and that the majority of weakly suffering children might, under altered circumstances, have been strong and well.

This condition of things needs a remedy. Our city cannot afford to waste its most precious possession. There is clearly here a call to action.

It may be useful to consider what is being done or what more needs doing to secure for Bristol a fresh generation of healthy citizens.

Up to 1909 very little systematic Infant Care work was undertaken either by the Municipal Authority or by any Voluntary Society. There were many helpful agencies, but none that made it their first object to help mothers to rear healthy children. In 1909 an attempt was made to supply this want by opening a 'School for Mothers' in St. Philip's. Here expectant mothers and mothers with babies under a year old were received, instructed in the care of their own health and that of their infants, and kept under skilled medical supervision. During the first year of its existence over 100 mothers and infants passed through the School.

In 1911 a second School was opened at the Women's Settlement, Barton Hill. The movement grew rapidly. At the present time 10 Schools (3 of them recently opened) are working in various parts of the city, *i.e.*, St. Philip's, Bedminster, St. George (3), Westbury (2), Hotwells, Newfoundland Road, and Shirehampton. During 1913 the 7 Schools then at work had over 500 mothers and a corresponding number of infants on their books.

The methods of working are fairly uniform in all Schools. Mothers of infants and expectant mothers come for advice and instruction. A Medical Officer (usually a woman) sees each member, gives advice, and watches over the health of mother and child. The babies are weighed every fortnight; lectures, demonstrations, homely talks are given on infant health ; classes for cookery, home management, and other domestic subjects are held. Where great poverty exists special meals are arranged for nursing and expectant mothers.

Two guiding principles are laid down for all Schools, (*a*) each School must employ a qualified Medical Officer, (*b*) all lectures on Health and Infant Care must be given by doctors or trained nurses, those on domestic science by properly qualified teachers. The School must *be* a School, a place for efficient reliable instruction and advice, not merely a meeting for women.

It will be seen that there exists in these Schools the nucleus of a valuable scheme for safeguarding the health of our city's babies. It is, however, only a small part of what might become a thoroughly efficient organisation for infant welfare if administered by municipal and voluntary agencies working hand in hand. Shortly after the first "School" was opened the Bristol Health Committee also commenced work in the same direction. In December, 1911, the City Council adopted the Notification of Births Act, whereby every birth becomes notifiable *to the Public Health Office* within 36 hours of its occurrence. This enables the Medical Officer of Health to watch over mothers and infants not already under efficient medical treatment, and gives the City

Authorities the opportunity of sending skilled assistance to poor women in their own homes. In October, 1912, the Health Committee appointed two women health visitors—trained nurses, who visit births in certain districts where the rate of infant mortality is high, to ascertain whether mother and child are receiving proper care. In cases where the child is not thriving, or the mother appears to need special supervision the name and address is passed on to the Superintendent of the nearest "School," so that the home can be continuously visited and the mother invited later on to attend the Infant Consultations and Classes at the School.

It is obvious that in a city the size of Bristol two official health visitors are insufficient. As is pointed out in the 1913 Report of the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. D. S. Davies), at least 10 visitors are required if the work is to be properly overtaken. Regular visiting of homes by trained women extending over a considerable period after a birth, especially the birth of a first baby, is essential if mothers are to be given all the help they need. The present staff of two can rarely pay more than a first visit. Dr. Davies' Report states that in 1913 'no less than 970 cases, which should have been seen, were left entirely unvisited, because the two visitors, though extremely keen and hard working, cannot get through more than a certain amount of work.' The voluntary visitors attached to the schools, endeavour to some extent to step into the breach, but their number and their available time are also limited. They cannot do all that is required.

Further than this there is urgent need of providing other safeguards against premature death and disease. The Local Government Board and the Board of Education, both keenly alive to the importance of work in connection with maternity and child-welfare, have recently issued circulars outlining a comprehensive scheme, which comprises medical supervision of expectant mothers, skilled attendance in child-birth, regular medical inspection and treatment for infants and young children up to school age. The L.G.B. offers grants up to half their expenditure to any municipal or voluntary body who will put the scheme into satisfactory operation. The Board of Education also offer grants for the distinctly educational part of the work. It is easy to imagine the widely beneficial effect that thorough administration of such a programme would have upon the health of our coming citizens. If the Health Committee and the Voluntary Infant Welfare Association, working hand in hand, could carry this out, we might hope for a considerable reduction in the tale of preventible disease and death.

There are some 350 children in our schools for the physically and mentally defective, and, roughly, another 100 children in schools and classes for the totally blind, the partially blind, and deaf. Added to these are the hundreds of youngsters who lag behind in ordinary schools, never sufficiently strong and bright to keep up with their fellows. Undoubtedly many causes have contributed to their 'unfitness,' but the *chief* cause was the absence of proper care and treatment before birth, after birth, and during early childhood. The Report previously alluded to states that of 3,575 infants visited

immediately after birth by the two health visitors, 3,239 were born healthy. Is it not our duty to see that these children *live* and thrive ?

Life and health are more than money. Nevertheless, it may be pointed out that even from the point of view of economy, it would pay the city to expend more on this branch of Public Health. For instance—at least one fourth (probably considerably more) of the cases of blindness in our schools arise from infantile opthalmia, a disease quite curable if treated at once. These cases are now notifiable, but cannot all be visited and treated unless there are sufficient health visitors to do the work, or to *see that it is done*. The cost to the rates of educating a blind child is at the lowest £330, that of a normal child about £10. It will be seen that one blind child costs the city 33 times as much as a normal one. How much more economical it would be to expend a few pounds on preventing his becoming blind by care and treatment during the first week or two of life ! The same applies in a lesser degree to the cripples and defectives, the cost of whose education greatly exceeds that of normal children. When we add to this waste of money, the misery, pauperism, possibly crime which physical unfitness often breeds, we see how great is the unnecessary burden our city bears. Surely every public-spirited citizen will desire to have a share in getting it removed.

Space does not permit of much reference to other agencies for building up the health of our growing generation. The Education (Provision of Meals) Act, of 1906, has been in operation in Bristol for some years, giving necessitous school children one good meal each school day. Last year, in all 282,152 meals were provided. Teachers testify to the increased intelligence and alacrity shewn by previously ill-nourished children after receiving proper meals. Up to August, 1914, it was illegal for the Education Authority to provide out of public funds, meals for children on other than school days. When the war broke out, the Board of Education issued a circular, sanctioning the provision of meals on Saturdays and Sundays, and during holidays, if there were shewn to be special need.

The work of medical inspection has already accomplished much ; there is scope for further work of incalculable value. Given an intelligent, far-seeing administration of the law, combined with the co-operation of teachers and parents, and the assistance of experienced voluntary workers, our school doctors and nurses will undoubtedly be able to materially raise the standard of health among school children. The Education Committee have lately decided to open four 'school clinics' at which small ailments can be treated and cases of suspected disease keep under observation.

Care of maternity, care of infancy and early childhood, care and supervision of our growing boys and girls, these linked together form a chain of safety, a bulwark against the ravages of death and disease. But there must be labourers to weld the chain and build the bulwark. Here then we have a fine aim and a fitting field of labour for any patriot who may not be able to 'serve' in other ways. Save the children. Help on the establishment of new

schools and consultation centres for mothers. Rouse public opinion as to the need of more municipal health visitors. Strain every nerve to prevent any little child from becoming permanently unfit. We cannot afford to let our babies die. We dare not risk the result of a population physically or mentally weak. The schoolboys of to-day must become the defenders of our land to-morrow; the toddling girls in the infant class will be the mothers of our future citizens. Give them a chance of performing their part with credit. Give them strong well-developed bodies, vigorous minds, wholesome tastes and desires. Join the ranks of those who fight in the cause of life and health." Miss F. M. Townsend.

GIRL LABOUR IN BRISTOL. "Taking the general question of girl labour in Bristol the demand far exceeds the supply. It is therefore quite easy for a normal child to enter almost any factory she wishes to select when she leaves school, although a careful selection of the kind of work she decides to take up is very important.

The conditions of factory life are steadily improving, many of the factories are up-to-date, airy and healthy, and the well-being of the girls is a matter that receives much attention from the employers. The same cannot yet be said of all factories, but the tendency is to improve.

The girl who is willing to enter either a factory or domestic service or to learn a trade is not the chief difficulty however, there is a large number of girls leaving the elementary schools whose parents will not consider factory or domestic life and who desire something different. The possible openings for such girls are difficult to find.

Too many girls are bent on taking up clerical work, and the market is already over-stocked. Careful and thorough training at a Commercial school is advisable, and the girl who is only half-trained stands a very poor chance of getting satisfactory employment.

In some of the printing factories girls are now being employed as feeders of machines (or layers-on) instead of boys. Employers state that they do the work better and waste less material.

Girl labour has also recently been substituted for boy labour in some of the breweries, and there too employers find the change a success.

There is an increasing difficulty experienced in getting apprentices for dressmaking and millinery. The terms offered to apprentices remain very low, and the future prospects, unless a girl really learns her trade thoroughly and is exceptionally expert, are in many cases unsatisfactory.

It is quite impossible in a short article to touch upon many branches of this wide subject and much must be left unsaid. The improvements in factory conditions are decidedly hopeful for the future, but the attractive freedom of such life is detrimental to the domestic side of girl labour." Miss Evelyn L. Tivy.

BRISTOL HOUSING PROBLEMS.

"The housing of the working classes in this city is a perplexing and difficult one. The Health Committee, whose duty it is to administrate the various Housing Acts, have been working for many years to improve the conditions in Bristol.

The progress has been somewhat slow, largely owing to the system of old courts and alleys being more or less of a 'worn out' type of house, let in many cases at rentals varying from 1/6 to 4/- per week.

The policy of the Health Committee has been to gradually clear out the worst of these, and issue closing orders. In this way a very large number have been got rid of, many being voluntarily cleared for various purposes, *i.e.*, factories, sites, street improvements and warehouses. There are a large number of houses in certain districts still to be dealt with.

Now comes the difficulty : if very active steps are taken to clear out these slums the people dehoused cannot obtain houses at a rent they can afford to pay. Therefore, unless you provide decent houses at reasonable rentals the remedy may prove to be worse than the disease and cause much overcrowding. Most people agree that these slum houses must go, and that people must have decent houses to live in.

In Bristol, the City Council some time since ordered the Health Committee to bring up a housing scheme, which was duly presented, and the reception it had was rather interesting. The Council all profess to be very anxious to do something, but it must not cost the ratepayers anything. The critics were many ; some said : You must build a house to provide proper accommodation for people with long families ; others, that you must only build for the people who are dehoused ; some, that the houses were too expensive and should be built in blocks on the tenement system ; some said the gardens were not large enough ; and others that there was too much open space and not enough houses to the acre on the land.

Now the conditions that guided the Health Committee in preparing this scheme were :—

(1). That any houses erected by the Corporation must be so built as not to become another slum area, and that plenty of light and air was a necessity.

(2). The houses were not to be occupied by persons whose wages were more than 25/- weekly, and the rents 3/9 for four rooms, and 5/6 for six rooms.

(3). That as far as possible the houses should be erected not more than 10 in a block, and that some amenities in the way of open spaces and play-grounds for children should be provided.

These conditions involve a charge on the rates, therefore the Council rejected the scheme.

In my opinion no scheme for rehousing dehoused people in Bristol can be carried out properly without a charge on the rates,

unless the houses are built on the barracks system in large blocks, and with very limited accommodation.

This system, all reformers agree, is not satisfactory or desirable where land can be obtained at a reasonable price.

I have every reason to believe this would be most unpopular in Bristol. There are several things essential to better conditions of housing of the working class.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Acts we have increased powers in dealing with bad landlords, which is having very good effect in compelling them to keep their houses in decent repair.

There must be proper supervision and inspection of any houses erected by the Corporation, and some power to punish bad tenants as well as bad landlords.

There is one phase of the question which is often overlooked as to cost. If you spend money in proper housing of the people it improves their health and morals, and less has to be spent in Sanitary Inspectors, Health Visitors, and in many other ways. This is a distinct gain to the community."

Councillor FRANK MOORE, *Vice-Chairman,*
Bristol Health Committee.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS.

"The Small Holdings and Allotments Committee of the Corporation have accomplished a great work in acquiring and letting land under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908.

The Committee now have under their management 30 Small Holdings, with a total acreage of 80 acres, 3 roods, 37 perches, made up as follows :—

No. of Tenants.	District.	Area. A.	R.	P.
1	Canford Farm ...	1	0	22
12	Narroways Hill ...	22	2	19
17	Stapleton ...	57	0	36
30	Total	80	3	37

It will be seen that all the Holdings are let, the majority being under good cultivation.

There are still 22 applicants waiting for Small Holdings in various parts of the city, requiring about 179 acres, but it has been impossible up to the present time to obtain suitable land to meet their requirements.

With regard to Allotments the Committee have under their control 32 Allotment Grounds in various parts of the City, occupied by 2,623 tenants with a total acreage of 224 acres, 0 roods, 19½ perches, made up as follows :—

No. of Tenants.	District.	Acreage. A.	R.	P.
59	Ashley Vale ...	4	0	31
74	Bedminster ...	8	3	21
116	Canford	10	2	1
39	Coombe Lane ...	8	3	35
107	Greenbank	9	1	39
189	Horfield	14	0	33½
97	Henbury	8	0	32
93	Lodge Causeway ...	6	3	29
356	Redcatch Lane ...	28	2	10
210	St. John's Lane ...	17	1	34
64	Southmead	9	0	28
68	Wee Lane	7	0	5
120	Bartlett's Bridge ...	8	0	34
204	Luckwell Lane ...	13	3	37
267	Narroway's Hill ...	20	2	7
46	St. George	3	1	0
74	Stapleton	8	1	0
112	St. Anne's	7	3	0
26	Talbot Lane ...	3	0	0
237	Thingwall Park ...	23	3	0
65	Vale Lane	4	1	3
Total 2,623		224	0	19½

In addition to which, since their report to the Council, the Committee have purchased 34 acres of land at Horfield, near Filton Avenue, on the west side of the South Wales railway, which will accommodate about 220 Allotment Tenants of 10 perches each, and 11 Small Holdings Tenants, with a varying area of from 1 acre to 2½ acres.

The Committee leased to the Brislington Allotments, Ltd., 9½ acres at Talbot Lane, for a term of 14 years from the 29th of September, 1909.

The Council therefore have control over an acreage of :—

A.	R.	P.
348	2	16½

There are still 640 applicants waiting for Allotments in various parts of the City, requiring about 50 acres.

The 'Brislington Allotments, Limited,' registered under the 'Industrial and Provident Societies Acts,' is the outcome of an effort made by the Men's Adult School, to secure land for allotments for its own members ; but realising very early in its history, that the need existed far beyond the limits of the school, the Society decided to open its Application Book to any men in the neighbourhood, with the result that the 9½ acres, leased from the Bristol Corporation on a term of 14 years, were rapidly under cultivation ; and at present 26 applicants are waiting for land.

Men of all creeds and classes readily acquiesce in the Special Rule which provides that the Society must be officered by *bonâ fide* Members of the Brislington Men's Adult School.

The Society's Officers welcome opportunities to help bodies of men in organising, on a co-operative basis, for similar work. The Allotments Authorities of the Bristol Corporation are also always ready to facilitate the work of such organisations."

BRISTOL LEGAL DISPENSARY. "The Dispensary continues the even tenor of its way, there having been in 1913 very little in number of applicants or nature of cases, to distinguish it from preceding years. One thing is noticeable, that is, that the number of applicants on each Thursday is now pretty much the same. In former years some difficulty has been caused by the great irregularity in attendance. If we had only one Solicitor there, probably about 15 to 20 cases would be the evening's work, on the following Thursday having taken the precaution to provide three advisers, the number of applicants would probably be five or six. Last year we seldom had less than eight or more than 15 cases in an evening.

Comparative statistics for the last three years are as follows :—

	1913	1912	1911
Total number of interviews ...	575	630	598
Classification—			
Workmen's Compensations ...	105	116	120
Debt and Loans	71	69	79
Landlord and Tenant... ...	54	67	63
Husband and Wife	51	52	54
Insurance	38	24	35
Will and Intestacy	37	47	47
Parent and Child	36	27	29
Accident and Negligence ...	28	45	38
Master and Servant	28	42	43
Contract	27	25	35
Libel and Slander	11	21	18
Tort and Criminal	20	14	8
Hire Purchase	9	7	7
Poor Law	9	17	—
Miscellaneous	36	41	22
Advice refused	15	16	—

We have noticed this year a considerable increase in the number of cases on insurance law; this is partly accounted for by the National Health Insurance Act, which has been working all through the year, but there is a distinct increase also in the cases arising under industrial life policies. We think that the Industrial Life Insurance Offices must be getting more particular, as claims seem to be more often disputed. If only the agents, when they get the insurers to sign the application forms, were as careful and particular

as their Companies are, when the claims are made, there would be fewer policies, but a good deal less injustice.

Unfortunately the Agents themselves are usually in poor circumstances, and have a hard struggle to make a living out of their commissions, hence the use of specious promises and the encouraging of insurances, really beyond the means of the insurers. It is very hard on a poor man or woman, after having paid threepence or sixpence a week for ten or fifteen years, to be unable to keep up the payments, and so to lose the whole benefit of the money paid in, money which, in some cases, might have been better spent in food or rent. The encouragement of thrift by Industrial Insurance is, no doubt, a good thing, but it is often overdone, and agents, speaking generally, are far too careless or unscrupulous.

Our sincere thanks are due to those Solicitors who have so kindly helped us during the past year. Unfortunately we lost, by death, last year, one of the most hardworking, patient, and careful helpers, we have ever had at the Dispensary. Alfred Tombs Mutlow was not, we think, widely known among those who work at Broad Plain, but Bristol and Broad Plain are the poorer by the loss of a conscientious and careful lawyer, and applicants at the Dispensary miss an able adviser and a sympathetic friend."

BRISTOL & SOUTH WESTERN VIGILANT ASSOCIATION

(For the protection of Girls and Women). "The 26th Annual Report issued by this Society is a record of steady and consistent service in this important work.

In comparing the moral conditions of our City to-day with the conditions obtaining at the Association's inception, the Committee realises that a decided change for the better has taken place, and they gladly place on record the cordial co-operation of the Police Authorities, in their endeavour to secure for our City a purer moral atmosphere.

The Society carries on an active educational work, and have issued pamphlets dealing with important phases of its work amongst mothers' meetings, &c. Assistance has also been given in forming Vigilant Societies or Committees in districts where it has been needed.

Objectionable photos and picture postcards have come within its purview, and in one case where the cards exhibited approached the border line of indecency, they were speedily removed after a protest.

Picture Shows have also been visited, and while nothing of an indecent character have been shown, the Committee considers more care should be taken to eliminate all pictures which tend to brutalise or lower the moral ideals of the young.

Young girls leaving their homes, and servants disappearing from their situations have in some cases been traced and induced to return to their friends.

In concluding their Report, the Committee feel there is a story which, for obvious reasons cannot be put into words. The darkest shadows are not revealed—the deepest sorrows are not spoken—the saddest tragedies are not written. But this Society has come to the rescue of many; has lifted them out of helplessness and despair, and enabled them to make a fresh start along the road to respectability and honest industry.

The Society's office is situated at 33, Park Street, Bristol. The organising secretary is Rev. W. T. DATSON."

POLICE COURT AND PRISON GATE MISSION.

"The object of this Mission is: To reform and help those who have been arrested. To accomplish this object the following plan is adopted:

Daily visits to the Police Courts.
Daily visits to the Prison Gate.
Free Breakfasts, given to Discharged Prisoners, both after their discharge and (when necessary) while they are in Prison.
Home or Work provided when possible.

An idea of the work done can be gathered from the following:—

Visits to the Prison Gate	274
Visits to the Police Courts	277
Visits to Homes	501
Pledges taken (Men 135, Women 53)	188
Discharged Prisoners invited to Breakfast	1733
Breakfasts given (Men 1174, Women 313)	1487
Cases spoken to at the Police Courts	358
Prisoners seen off by train to other Towns	120
Cases of attempted Suicide dealt with	13
48 Women who took the Pledge with me were handed over to the Women's Union to visit. 52 cases handed to Clergy and other Workers	100

JUVENILE.—Mrs. Whaits had 11 Children on remand last year for the Children's Court, and all dealt with from the Court, only Children helped inside my home.

Helped with Board and Lodgings, Clothing or Work ...	51
Cases in my Cottage Shelter and given a new start (Lads)	22
Lads entered the Army	1
Lads entered the Navy	1
Lads got berths on Ships	2
Lads sent to work in Coal Pits in Wales	3
Cases helped in Cottage Rooms, Work got and Clothing found (Women)	13
No. of Meetings attended	19

BRISTOL CIVIC LEAGUE.

"The Bristol Civic League is a body of Citizens who are endeavouring to co-ordinate the work of voluntary Societies and private persons, and bring it into relation with the great State organisations for the relief of distress.

It has a lay body of voluntary workers who enquire into the needs of persons referred to them, enlist the help of the appropriate agencies, obtain help in money or kind, provide friendly visitors, or in whatever way seems best, under the particular circumstances, try to restore the individual or family to independence.

The State having assumed responsibility for certain forms of assistance, formerly left to private initiative, by means of the National Insurance scheme, the Labour Exchange, the Medical Inspection and Feeding of School Children, and in other ways, voluntary workers are now more free to devote themselves to the task of co-ordination, which the increasing elaboration of our social system has rendered a very necessary one. The League undertakes the training of workers for both visiting and office work."

BRISTOL UNION. "Persons relieved during week ending July 1st, 1914:—

Indoor Poor—	
Men	991
Women...	931
Children	522
In various Institutions (not under care of Guardians) ...	159
Total	2603
Of the above there were—	
Males, able-bodied in health	40
,, temporarily disabled	288
Females, able-bodied in health...	51
,, temporarily disabled	244
Lunatics in Bristol Asylum—	
Men	408
Women	465
	873
Casuals—	
Men	128
Women	11
Children	2
	141
Persons relieved during week ending December 31st, 1913—	
Indoor Poor—	
Men	1071
Women	937
Children	560
In various Institutions (not under care of Guardians) ...	145
	2713

Of the above there were—	
Males, able-bodied in health	120
,, temporarily disabled	273
Females, able-bodied in health...	63
,, temporarily disabled	231
Lunatics in Bristol Asylum—	
Men	411
Women...	460
	871
Casuals—	
Men	119
Women	8
Children	—
	127

Summary and comparison with corresponding weeks in previous years:—

	July 1, 1914.	July 2, 1913.	Dec. 31, 1913.	Dec. 25, 1912.
Indoor Poor	2591	2651	2713	3001
Lunatics ...	875	866	871	854

CITY OF BRISTOL GUILD OF THE BRAVE POOR THINGS.

"The Guild of the 'Brave Poor Things,' having its head-quarters at the Heritage, St. Jude's, is a Society of Blind and Crippled People of all ages, who are banded together in spite of physical handicap, and make a brave and plucky fight. The younger members are, whenever possible, apprenticed to suitable trades; the older members, when their capacity permits, are taught some simple handicraft, which helps in some small way towards self-support and fills with interest otherwise empty and monotonous hours.

At Churchill, under the Mendips, is a small Convalescent Home, where each year the holiday-needing crippled members are given a few weeks' country living and happiness, which often means the healing of wounds and the easing of pain.

Classes and Clubs are held through the autumn and winter months, and all through the year the members meet for a fortnightly Guild, on alternate Thursdays, 3.30 and 6.30 o'clock, at 'The Heritage,' St. Jude's. The motto of the Guild is *Laetus sorte mea* (happy in my lot), and most pluckily do these handicapped people, young and old, strive and live up to their motto."

THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

"This is a democratic, non-political, and unsectarian federation of organisations and individuals for stimulating, expressing and supplying the popular demand for higher education, consisting at present of 2,555 organisations, including 953 Trade Unions, Trades Councils and Branches, 388 Co-operative Committees, 341 Adult Schools and Classes, 15 University

bodies, 16 Local Education Authorities, 175 Working Men's Clubs and Institutes, 65 Teachers' Associations, 151 Educational and Literary Societies and 451 various Societies, mainly of workpeople. (These figures are exclusive of organisations affiliated to the W.E.A. overseas.)

The Bristol Branch numbers 100 Affiliated Societies and 600 Members.

Among the many items of interest arranged under its auspices for the coming Winter are the following :—

A course of Eight Lectures by Dr. Lloyd Morgan, on 'Thinking and doing,' at the Association Hall, St. James' Square.

A course of Four Lectures on 'The Life of St. Paul,' by the Rev. John Gamble, B.D., at the St. Nicholas Schoolroom, Queen Charlotte Street.

A series of Four Chamber Concerts by Mrs. Fitzherbert and friends, at the University Settlement New Hall.

Special Courses for Adult School Workers on 'Making the Map of Modern Europe,' by Miss Hilda Cashmore, B.A. ; and 'A Study in the Fourth Gospel,' by Mr. E. H. C. Wethered, M.A., LL.B., at the University Settlement.

A Series of Talks, Weekly, by Mr. W. A. Roberts, on 'European Happenings—Past and Present,' at Durdham Down School.

A course of Fortnightly Lectures by Mr. Laurie Magnus, M.A., on 'The European Situation and its relation to Modern History,' at the Society Rooms, Broad Street, on Sunday mornings in the New Year.

Tutorial Classes in Economics and English Literature.

A series of Weekly Saturday Afternoon Lectures, Demonstrations and Excursions to places of interest in the city.

A Speakers' Class for Women, on Monday afternoons, at 3.30.

A French Conversation Class (Weekly).

Monthly Saturday Night Club Socials, arranged by the W.E.A. Song and Sketch Party.

Numerous Study Circles in a great variety of subjects.

Particulars of these, and other fixtures, will be found in the Association's Handbook, which may be obtained from Miss L. B. Jaques, 106, Richmond Road, Montpelier.

The Secretary for the Western District, Mr. W. R. Straker, 27, Morgan Street, Bristol, will be pleased to address meetings on the work of the W.E.A." W. R. STRAKER.

BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION. "The Boy Scout Association exists for public service and the training of the boy in habits of self-control, discipline, and usefulness. One of the 'Scout laws' is that a Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what social class the other belongs. This spirit inculcates into the boy a desire for service, and the whole training makes for good citizenship.

The local association is made up of over fifty troops, and a total of nearly a thousand members. The majority of these troops are attached to various churches and chapels of the city, but some are quite independent.

By a system of badges the boys are encouraged to learn ambulance, carpentry, signalling, path-finding, boatwork, life-saving, gardening, and many other instructive interests.

There is always a need for officers and helpers, and any desirous of assisting forward this movement for boys should communicate with the Honorary Secretary, 27, Portland Square. Phone, 2392."

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE (CITY OF BRISTOL CORPS).

"Bristolians in general are familiar enough with the St. John Ambulance carriages as they speed through our streets on their errands of mercy to some injured or sick person, but few apparently realize the great amount of good they do in the city, in our workshops, everywhere where life and limb are endangered. Coming as they do from an organisation which dates back to the year 1058, an order which as the Knights' Crusaders found much work to do in and around Jesusalem during the Holy Wars; and so on down through history this Order has come, its eight-pointed badge ever worshipped as a token which denotes a great humanitarian movement. One has only to reflect that rarely is it now we see the old-fashioned complaint of shortness of limb, rarely is it we meet with men who lose their limbs. Ponder this for one moment. It is important. The reason is clear. As soon as an accident takes place in our factories or in the streets the ambulance man is soon on the scene, the carriage follows, and, first aid having been rendered, the injured person is in the hands of the Infirmary or Hospital casualty surgeon in a few minutes. But it is not without a great expense that this work can be carried on. At the Transport Station, Unity Street, St. Philip's, there are 5 horsed ambulance carriages, 2 powerful and modern motor ambulance carriages, a wheeled litter, a portable cottage hospital, a horse-drawn cottage hospital. The Brigade, of course, have to keep a staff of drivers and attendants, who are on duty night and day, and when I state that in one year, an average year, the total number of cases attended by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, in Bristol, totalled 12,088, the reader will realise what exactly the citizens of Bristol owe to this great humane organisation. This is an average of 200 cases dealt with each week, cases where (in many cases) death may ensue but for prompt attendance. That is my answer to the question as to why there are fewer permanent cripples to be seen to-day.

The Brigade, under Transport-Supt. A. Cotton, are always in attendance at fires. The ambulance man is always ready and willing when life and limb are endangered, to use his knowledge for the sake of suffering humanity. He is always ready, always willing, always under arms against death and disablement; and while the St. John Ambulance are doing their share in this great campaign,

and form part of the Red Cross organisation under power of the Army Council, they still have to study the citizens of Bristol, and expenses now are even greater, for they are now working in a dual capacity ; and so I plead with the citizens of Bristol, to support as fully as they can, this humane organisation, the organisation who while dealing and treating as they have always done, the wounded and sick of the industrial world, are not lacking when the country calls. Over 100 Bristol ambulance men are now on duty, serving their country in the various military and naval hospitals throughout the country, and 50 have left for Paris with the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital." T. JAY.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT.

" In the absence of the Chief Constable, the Deputy Chief Constable (Mr. Wookey) read the report, which stated :—

The following table shows the various licenses existing on the 31st December, 1913, as compared with those existing on the 31st December, 1912.

Description of License.	1913.	1912.	Inc.	Dec.
Ale Houses	414	416	...	2
Beer Houses (on)	421	436	...	15
Beer Houses (off)	229	230	...	1
Refreshment Houses, having wine licenses	1	1	..	...
Grocers' Licenses	64	70	...	6
Chemists' Licenses	28	28	...	...
	1157	1181	...	24

One new ale-house and one new chemist's licenses were granted during the year, but three ale-house and fifteen beer-house (on) were closed after compensation, and one beer-house (off) ; one chemist's and six grocers' licenses were not renewed, leaving the city with a net decrease of 24 licenses on the 31st December, 1913. Of the ale-houses, 39 have six-day licenses, and 53 beer-houses hold licenses for the sale of wine. Five hundred and fifty-five occasional licenses and extensions have been granted during the year, a decrease of 61 on the previous year. Two hundred and ten transfers have been granted, viz., 78 ale-house licenses, 82 beer-house (on) licenses, 47 beer-house (off) licenses, and 3 grocers' licenses, showing an increase of 13."

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The National Adult School Movement

comprises 1905 Schools, with a total Membership of 97,000 and 4,469 in Junior Sections.

The Bristol Adult School Union

affiliating 47 Men's Schools, with 17 Junior Classes.
,, 25 Women's ,, ,, 2 ,,
Total Membership - 3974.

PRESIDENT - F. COTTERELL.

HON. SECRETARY - CROFTON E. GANE,
16, Queens Parade.

Aims:

1. To make and develop men and women and to teach them the art of life.
2. To study the Bible frankly, freely, reverently, and without prejudice.
3. To establish an unsectarian basis for Christian effort and unity.
4. To bring together in helpful comradeship and active service the different classes of society.
5. To stimulate and educate public spirit and public morality.
6. To teach the responsibility of British citizenship.
7. To encourage whatever makes for International Brotherhood.
8. To advance as far as may be the equality of opportunity.
9. In short, to help men and women to understand and to live the life of Jesus Christ, and to encourage them in their personal allegiance to Him.

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